



## **Nordic Bologna-seminar on student mobility in higher education:**

### **- Linking student mobility to employability to secure economic growth**

**Dates:** 31<sup>st</sup> of March – 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2011

**Venue:** Copenhagen Business School

#### **Preliminary information**

The seminar on mobility will focus both on the policy agenda of mobility as an important aspect of employability and, in a broader context as a prerequisite for economic growth in a globalised world. Furthermore, the seminar will present examples of how to work with mobility at an institutional level both on a strategic and practical level.

The first day of the seminar will focus on policy aspects of mobility and internationalisation of higher education. On the second day of the seminar, representatives from Nordic higher education institutions will present examples of how to work with mobility strategically and practically.

#### **Target group:**

Programme Directors, Directors of Studies, Deans, Vice Rectors of Education, key persons working with international aspects in education, and of course, students.

#### **Timeframe for the seminar:**

Lunch to lunch: 31<sup>st</sup> of March – 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2011

#### **Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> of March**

- Welcome address by the Danish Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation and the European Commission
- Keynote 1: Global trends for international education, growth, mobility and demography
- Keynote 2: Nordic survey(s) on student mobility patterns, student support systems and labour market outcomes
- Student\employer perspectives

#### **Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> of April**

- Strategies at higher education institutions: how to implement a successful strategy for increased mobility (internationalisation) – examples from Nordic higher education institutions

- Different workshop tracks including topics: *mobility windows in higher education, the teacher's role in mobility, joint and double degrees, working with international placements*

**More information about speakers and further practical information on registration, location etc. will follow in January 2011.**

### **Background**

Obtaining growth through mobility and employability is a key focus area in European education policy. In the EU Commission's Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, two flagship initiatives articulate the importance of this agenda, namely Youth on the Move and New Skills for New Jobs.

Furthermore, in the Leuven-communiqué of 2009, the European Ministers of the Bologna-process agreed to the common goal that *at least 20 % of those graduating from the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training period abroad*. The communiqué also includes employability as a new Bologna action line. The aim is to ensure the presence of a highly qualified workforce, and this should be achieved *through close cooperation between governments, higher education institutions, social partners and students*.

Studies show that students who go abroad gain international experience and, at the same time, improve general competences like language and cooperation skills, flexibility, etc. These skills help students later on when they enter a demanding and globalised job market. In other words: the connection between mobility and employability is becoming increasingly important, and thus *focusing on employability when promoting student mobility* at a national level can be both efficient and highly relevant for Nordic higher education.



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